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ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

A Syllabus and General Guide for

CH 605

The Sacraments in History

Spring 2001

J. Steven O'Malley

CH 605 - The Sacraments in History

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A seminar treating Eastern, Western, and Post Reformation views about the nature and purpose of the sacraments, particularly Baptism and the Eucharistic Liturgy. Emphasis will also be given to the Pietists and Wesleyan traditions.

II. LEARNING GOALS

1. To acquaint the theological student with the major patterns of sacramental thought, in relation to Christology and church which emerged in the Christian tradition and to help him/her to attain an understanding of these doctrines that will possess clarity and faithfulness to the Christian tradition.
2. Identify the major persons and events in the development of the doctrine of the church and the sacraments, as delineated in class lectures and assigned readings.
3. Critically analyze and discuss the major themes, issues, problems, movements and trends in the development of the Christian doctrine of the church and sacraments.
4. Synthesize the materials covered in this class in a systematic and comprehensive manner.
5. Relate this study to the developments of the church and the sacraments to the development of the student's understanding of how the church and sacraments should function in the his/her pastoral ministry.

III. PREREQUISITES

CH501 is to be taken before this course. It is also important that the student who enters the course manifest an attitude of open inquiry under God's leading, recognizing that the mind of Christ can be more fully discerned by an awareness of the shaping of His Body in history.

IV. TOPIC LISTING AND SEQUENCE

READING

- | | | |
|-----|---|--------------|
| 2/7 | I. Introduction
Do You Have a Doctrine of the Church
and Sacraments? | |
| 2/9 | II. The Early Christian Liturgy: Formative Images
of the Sacraments
A. Worship in the Synagogue | Dix, Chs.1-3 |

- B. The Problem of the Last Supper
Was the Last Supper a Passover Meal?
Historic Solutions
The Kiddush Theory
The Chaburah Theory
- C. The Passover Theory
- D. Greek Influences on the Liturgy
Greek as the Language of the Liturgy
Fellowship Meals
The Mystery Religions

2/14	<p>The Primitive Christian Liturgy Baptism and The Lord's Supper in Primitive Christianity Worship in Ignatius and the Apostolic Fathers Exercise 1: The Didache; Pro _____ / Contra _____ Baptismal Instructions and the Eucharistic Prayers of the Didache (presentation modeled by JSO)</p>	<p>Dix, Ch.4 Bettenson, pp.64-66;74-77 (fathers on the Eucharist)</p>
2/16	<p>Pliny's Letter to Trajan Exercise 2: Gnostics; Pro _____ / Contra _____ Justin Martyr: I Apology Irenaeus vs the Gnostics</p>	<p>Bettenson, 3, Bainton, Dix, Chs.5-6, T, I</p>
2/21	<p>Exercise 3: Healing; Pro _____ / Contra _____ Hippolytus: The Apostolic Tradition</p>	<p>Dix, Ch 7 pp.156-187), Ch.8 (pp.230-7), Ch.9</p>
2/23	<p>Exercise 4: Baptism; Pro _____ / Contra _____ The Plan of a Roman House</p>	<p>T, II</p>
2/28	<p>Exercise 5: Lord's Supper; Pro _____ / Contra _____</p>	<p>Dix, Ch.10, (pp.303-360)</p>
3/2	<p>Exercise 6: Ministry; Pro _____ / Contra _____</p>	<p>Dix, Ch. 11 (pp.303-360)</p>
III. Orthodoxy: The Sacraments as Living Tradition		
A. Developments after Constantine		
3/7	<p>Exercise 7: Liturgy & the Nicene Creed; Pro _____ /Contra _____</p>	<p>Dix, Ch. 13, (pp. 434-452, & 473-495)</p>

A. Liturgical Notebook

Maintain a liturgical notebook into which four things are to be placed: (a) notes of the lectures or their equivalent (i.e., independent reading on the topics covered by the lectures), (b) copies of documents, printed services, or illustrations which may be obtained during the course of our study,* and (c) notes taken from the books read to fulfill course requirements (minimum 800 pages). The notebook is due on the final class date.

* Annotations should address these questions:

What is the main argument in this discussion?

Who are the principal figures involved?

What is its historical context?

Why is it important to an understanding of sacraments?

* You are asked to attend worship services in one of these traditions during the course (Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Lutheran, Presbyterian, or Episcopal) and prepare a personal written response (each 2 pages) to the service, including theological and liturgical observations.

B. Select two exploratory topics and prepare a 5-7 page (double spaced) paper on each for presentation in class, using proper research style. Copy to be presented to instructor and class members by 12:00 noon on day preceding presentation.(20 points for form and content; 10 points for presentation).

C. Evaluation

Liturgical Notebook = 40 points

Papers on Exploratory Topics = 30 points x 2

Research Paper = 40 points

Attendance and Participation = 20 points

Final Exam = 40 points

Total of 170 possible points

153 - 170 = A

136 - 152 = B

119 - 135 = C

102 - 118 = D

below 101= F

VII. EXPLORATORY QUESTIONS - HISTORY OF THE SACRAMENTS

1. "The Didache offers evidence that early Christian worship was more interested in structure than in free, charismatic expression." Pro/contra
2. "Early Christian worship (as seen in Justin and the discussion of worship in Irenaeus) succeeded in avoiding influence from Gnosticism." Pro/contra
- 3.. "The decline of healing in the early Christian church was primarily due to the rise of dispensational thinking concerning history." Pro/contra
4. "The theology and practice of baptism in the early Christian church supports the doctrine of pedobaptism." Pro/contra
5. "The understanding of the Lord's Supper in the early Christian church, as reflected in Justin and Hippolytus, is uncomplicated by metaphysical concerns." Pro/contra
6. "The understanding of ordained and lay ministry in the early Christian liturgies (Ignatius, Hippolytus) did not accentuate the distinctions of clergy and laity" (pro/contra)
7. "The Nicene Creed posed more problems for defining the Christian creed, as confessed in worship, than it resolved." Explain with reference to the arguments between Arians, Athanasius, and the Semi-Arians. Pro/contra.
- 8.. "The reference to the 'Theotokos' in the early Greek creed was more a catalyst for heresy and schism in the Church than for enhancing the worship of Christ in the congregation." Pro/contra.
- . 9. "Augustine's understanding of 'sacrament' was related to an undue elevation of the notion of the church as an 'invisible' body of believers." . Pro/contra
"The doctrine of the 'epiklesis' in the Eastern Rite provides a more adequate place for the work of the Holy Spirit in worship than was found in the Western Rite." Pro/contra
10. "Luther provides the best defense of 'sola fide' in his understanding of the place of Christ in the Lord's Supper." Pro/Contra (Zwingli)/reply (Calvin)
11. "The more biblically accurate representation of baptism was provided by the Anabaptists." Pro/contra (Calvin)
12. "The Book of Common Prayer represents a developed pattern of worship that is grounded in the biblical message." Pro/contra (the Puritans' position)
13. "John Wesley was correct in regarding the Lord's Supper as a 'converting' ordinance." Pro/Contra (with reference to Otterbein's Reformed position)
- 14.

VIII. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Required text for purchase:

Bettenson, H., ed., Documents of the Christian Church (Oxford)

Dix, Gregory, The Shape of the Liturgy (A & C Black)

The Orthodox Liturgy

Thompson, Bard, Liturgies of the Western Church (pap.) (Meridian-World Books).

Recommended Books (on reserve):

Augustine, The City of God, edited by David Knowles (Doubleday-Image Books).
 Borgen, Ole, John Wesley on the Sacraments.
 Fellowship of St. Alban and Sergius, The Orthodox Liturgy.
 Garrish, B.A., The Faith of Christendom
 Hillerbrand, Hans, ed., The Protestant Reformation (Harper and Row)
 McDonnell, Kilian, John Calvin, The Church, and The Eucharist.
 Preuss, R., Getting into the Theology of Concord (pap.) (Concordia).
 Schmemann, a., For the Life of the World.
 _____, Of Water and the Spirit, A Liturgical Study of Baptism

IX. TERMINAL OBJECTIVES

The student should be able to:

1. Identify the major persons and events in the development of the doctrines of the church and the sacraments, as delineated in class lectures and assigned readings.
2. Critically analyze and discuss the major themes, issues, problems, movements and trends in the development of the Christian doctrines of the church and the sacraments.
3. Synthesize the materials covered in this class in a thematic and comprehensive fashion.
4. Relate this study of the church and sacraments to the development of one's understanding of how the church and sacraments should function in one's ministry.

X. BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR CHURCH AND SACRAMENTS

(consult the complete bibliography for details)

The sacraments and liturgy in general:

Beasley, Baptism in the New Testament
 Brilioth, Eucharistic Faith and Practice
 Danielou, The Bible and the Liturgy
 Dix, The Shape of the Liturgy
 Minear, Images of the Church in the New Testament
 Schmemann, Introduction to Liturgical Theology
 Von Allmen, Worship: Its Theology and Practice
 White, Biblical Doctrine of Initiation

The Roman Church:

Congar, The Mystery of the Church
 Diekmann, Come Let Us Worship
 Jungmann, The Mass of the Roman Rite
 King, Liturgy of the Roman Church
 Kung, The Church
 O'Shea, The Worship of the Church
 Ranner, Church and Sacraments

Luther:

Althaus, The Theology of Martin Luther
Schlink, The Doctrine of Baptism
Vajta, Luther on Worship
Vajta, The Lutheran Church, Past and Present

Calvin:

Baillie, The Theology of the Sacraments
McDonnell, John Calvin, The Church, and the Eucharist
Nichols, Corporate Worship in the Reformed Tradition
Wallace, Calvin's Doctrine of the Word and Sacrament

Anabaptist:

Littell, The Origin of Sectarian Protestantism
Tonkin, The Church and the Secular Order in Reformation Thought
(also contains chapters on Luther and Calvin)

Puritan:

Davies, J. G., The Spirit, the Church, and the Eucharist
Davies, The Worship of the English Puritans

Anglican:

Brightman, The English Rite
Proctor and Frere, A New History of the Book of Common Prayer
Quick, O.C., The Christian Sacraments

Methodist:

Borgen, John Wesley and the Sacraments
Hardin, Quilliam and White, The Celebration of the Gospel: A Study in Christian Worship
Kirkpatrick, The Doctrine of the Church
Rattenbury, The Eucharistic Hymns of John and Charles Wesley
See Section K of the Bibliography; the books by Bishop, Bowmer, Harmon and Sanders are appropriate.

Contemporary Trends:

Barth, The Teaching of the Church Regarding Baptism
Bruner, The Doctrine and Exposition of the Holy Spirit in the Pentecostal Movement
Church of South India, The Book of Common Worship
Guzie, Jesus and the Eucharist (Roman)
Kerr, The Christian Sacraments
McDonnell, Charismatic Renewal and the Churches
Neill, The Church and Christian Union
Robinson, Liturgy Coming to Life
Second Vatican Council, Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy
Stott, Baptism and Fullness of the Holy Spirit
The Eucharistic Liturgy of Taizé
The Taizé Office

